

## MANITOBA WHEAT GRADES.

It seems likely that the government will take a sensible view of the matter and refuse to interfere at the behest of those who are demanding changes in the mode of handling and inspecting Manitoba wheat. To make any changes in the middle of the season, would certainly work serious injury to the trade and derange the entire business for the balance of the crop year. If any changes are really necessary, it will be time enough to introduce them by the time the next crop is ready for market. So far as mixing is concerned, there is undoubtedly less reason for complaint this year than in most previous years. The quality of the crop is so high this year, that even with other grades mixed in, the average quality will still be above the regular No. 1 standard, and so long as the wheat is equal to or above the standard, no one has any reasonable cause for complaint. It is worthy of notice that eastern parties who claim to have suffered through being furnished with mixed wheat when they had purchased No. 1 hard, have not asked for an investigation. They have done lots of talking, but they have taken no action to verify their assertions. If any eastern buyer is furnished by a Manitoba shipper, with wheat below the standard, the inspection act provides for a simple and speedy means of redress. So long as these parties who object to the grading of Manitoba wheat, refuse to avail themselves of the means of redress for wheat supplied under grade, their agitation must be regarded as proceeding from other motives than that of real imposition in supplying wheat under grade. The proof of the pudding is in the eating of it, and if the wheat is not up to grade, it is an easy matter to secure redress. When no action is taken, we must decide that no wheat below the standard has been supplied by Manitoba shippers, in filling orders for No. 1 hard.

As regards smutty wheat, it is unreasonable to object to the cleaning of such wheat. Of course farmers are largely to blame for having smutty wheat, but this is no reason why an effort should not be made to handle this class of wheat to the best advantage, so as to enable the farmer to realize as much as possible for his grain. Some have said: "Let the farmer who grows smutty wheat stand the consequences." We think, however, that this is poor reasoning. While the farmer should be warned against growing smutty grain, at the same time it is only right for shippers to try to handle such grain so as to net as much as possible for those who are so unfortunate as to have it.

The Manitoba inspection system provides for two classes of smutty wheat, namely: No. 1 and No. 2 rejected. No. 1 rejected is choice wheat, not badly smutted, but not fit for the regular grades by reason of the presence of some smut. When this grade is thoroughly cleaned before the smut is much broken, it should be good

enough for the high grades. To refuse such wheat a grade above No. 3, would entail a serious loss upon the farmers whose wheat comes in this class.

## ABOVE EXPORT VALUE.

Very little Duluth No. 1 hard wheat is being exported. The reason for this is that it is being purchased for home milling purposes at considerably above export values. The supply of hard wheat in the United States is limited, and the most of it is wanted at home for mixing with the softer wheats, to obtain a strong flour. If Manitoba wheat could go into the United States free of duty, so it could be used there for milling, it would be of some value to the producers of Manitoba, as Manitoba wheat would then be placed on a par with Duluth; though possibly the effect of the admittance of Manitoba wheat would reduce hard wheat prices in the United States to an export basis, owing to the increased supply which would then be available. Be this as it may, it is evident that Duluth wheat at the moment has a slight advantage over Manitoba wheat, owing to the fact that it has been selling above an export basis, on account of the home milling demand, while the Manitoba wheat, not having as keen demand at home, has been selling at export prices. The last statement of the Minnesota Railroad and Warehouse commission shows that Duluth wheat sold in England recently at 4 cents per bushel under relative Duluth prices. On October 22, in England, 16,000 bushels of No. 1 hard Duluth wheat sold at equal to about 67½ cents. On the same day the quotation for the same grade at Duluth was 58½ cents or equal to about 72c delivered in London, showing an apparent loss of about 4 cents per bushel. Following shows the price of wheat in Duluth on October 22, with the cost of delivery in London:

Price No. 1 hard in Duluth Oct. 22.....	5825
Duluth elevator charges .....	.0085
Lake freight and insurance, Duluth to Buffalo .....	.0350
Buffalo elevator charges, etc.....	.0100
Canal freight and insurance Buffalo to New York .....	.0300
New York elevator charges .....	.0150
Ocean freight and insurance, New York to London .....	.0325
Loss in weight, Duluth to London.....	.0050
Cost delivered in London.....	.7185
Actual sale in London for 22s 7½d per qr of 480 lbs (or 67½c per bu).....	.6788

Apparent loss on transaction nearly 4c .0397

A later statement furnished by the Minnesota Commission, reports a sale on October 29 of 8,000 bushels of No. 1 hard Duluth in London, at 22s 6d per quarter, equal to 67½ cents per bushel. The commission also reports that 8,000 bushels of No. 1 Manitoba hard sold on the same day, on the same terms and at the same price as was obtained for the Duluth grade.

With Duluth wheat selling as much as 4 cents per bushel above export values, it is quite evident that any difference in price between Manitoba and Duluth wheats of the same grade, in United States markets, is

not owing to any difference in quality, but rather to the fact that the home milling demand is taking the Duluth wheat at above export prices, while the Manitoba wheat, being subject to the duty, can pass through the United States only in bond, and must be exported. The latter must therefore be sold at export prices.

## INDIAN HEMP.

The Indian hemp, a textile plant of some value, which has been found growing wild in Manitoba, near Rounthwaite, as described in previous issues of The Commercial, is to be tested at the Manitoba experimental farm. The following letter has been received from Mr. Bedford, manager of the farm:

Editor Commercial,—I notice your article in last week's issue on the Indian Hemp, if you will kindly send me some of the seed, I shall be pleased to give the plants a test.

Yours truly,  
S. A. BEDFORD.

It is to be hoped the plant will prove valuable under cultivation. It is understood to be used in Russia to some extent, for its fibre.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

INSURANCE rates have been advanced in Winnipeg 25 per cent. This is an outcome of the recent fires, which showed some weak points in the civic fire department. There is, however, no greater reason for the advance than there has been for years. Winnipeg, all things considered, has been a good investment for the companies, but they seem averse to meeting with a loss, and evidently intend to make it up by the increase of rates.

THE Young Liberal Club of Toronto has been debating the question of law reform, and as a result the Ontario government will be asked to appoint a commission, composed of four judges and three laymen, to report as to the best method of securing reform. If the movement leads to the accomplishment of anything in the direction indicated, it will be a matter for satisfaction. To the lay mind, there appears to be abundant room for law reform, in the direction of reducing the cost of litigation, and also in expediting and simplifying the mode of procedure. The introduction of the principle of arbitration more generally in settling disputes is perhaps as greatly to be desired as is a movement for law reform.

THE price of wheat during October, in England, averaged the lowest on record. During 1893, the lowest price reached was 25 shillings per quarter (eight bushels), which was the average price for the month of March, in last year. The October average this year was 17s 10d per quarter. Elsewhere in this issue we publish a table from the London Miller, showing the monthly average of wheat in England for seven years. The prices given are for home-grown English wheat. The very inferior quality of the English crop this year, on account of damage from rain, will perhaps account to some extent for the very low range of prices, but this is only one

[Continued on page 262.]